

Message Text

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54

ACTION NEA-12

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ISO-00 IO-13 CIAE-00 DODE-00 NSAE-00

NSCE-00 SSO-00 USIE-00 AID-20 CCO-00 FBO-01 PM-07

H-03 INR-10 L-03 NIC-01 NSC-10 SPC-03 OC-06 OPR-02

PA-03 USSS-00 RSC-01 PRS-01 SCA-01 A-01 OMB-01 SS-15

SY-10 DRC-01 SCS-03 INRE-00 /154 W
----- 024339

O 210840Z SEP 73

FM AMEMBASSY KABUL

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 5175

INFO AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY TEHRAN IMMEDIATE

CINCPAC

USMISSION USUN

C O N F I D E N T I A L KABUL 6844

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINS, PFOR, AF, PK

SUBJECT: ARRESTS OF PROMINENT CIVILIAN AND MILITARY LEADERS AND
RUMORS OF ABORTIVE COUP ATTEMPT

REF: KABUL 6840

1. HIGHLY RELIABLE REPORTS JUST RECEIVED THAT A LARGE NUMBER OF
MILITARY AND CIVILIAN ARRESTS MADE WITHIN PAST 24 HOURS. ONLY FOUR
NAMES OF ARRESTEES YET KNOWN - BUT THEY ARE ALL PROMINENT AND
HIGHLY SIGNIFICANT. ARRESTS REPORTEDLY FOLLOWED INTENSIVE AND
UNDOUBTEDLY GRUELING INTERROGATION SERVANTS OF ACCUSED.

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2. AFGHAN RADIO HAS ANNOUNCED THAT FORMER PRIMIN MAIWANDWAL,

RETIRED FORMER AIR FORCE CHIEF OF STAFF RAZAK, RETIRED FORMER GOVERNOR OF NANGARHAR KHAN MOHAMMAD HAVE BEEN ARRESTED FOR ANTI-REGIME ACTIVITIES. INCRIMINATING DOCUMENTS ALLEGEDLY FOUND IN "TRAITOR GROUP'S" HOMES. RELIABLE SOURCE ALSO INCLUDES FORMER ARMY CHIEF OF STAFF ABDUL SALAM AMONG THOSE ARRESTED (AT HIS HOME IN GHAZNI). IN ANNOUNCEMENT NOTED PARA 5 BELOW GOA IMPLIED THAT MAIWANDWAL HAD BEEN PLOTTING WITH PAKISTAN AGAINST NEW REGIME ALTHOUGH HIS NAME NOT MENTIONED. THIS LINK ALSO HOWEVER REPORTED TO US INDEPENDENTLY BY OTHER SOURCE.

3. CONSIDERABLE MILITARY ACTIVITY SEEN OR REPORTED TO HAVE BEEN SEEN ON EVENING OF SEPT 20. APCs, TROOP TRUCK, POSSIBLY TANKS BLOCKED ROADS IN VICINITY OF PRESIDENT DAUD'S HOUSE, POSSIBLY OTHER AREAS OF KABUL. PERSONS IDENTIFIED ONLY AS "PROMINENT FORMER PARLIAMENTARIANS" WERE HURRIEDLY SUMMONED FROM DINNER AT INTERCONTINENTAL HOTEL.

4. RUMORS RIFE THAT PLOT OF SENIOR MILITARY OFFICERS WAS CRUSHED. ALL APPEARS QUIET AT MID-DAY SEPT 21. ONLY NORMAL GUARDS IN AREA OF DAUD'S HOUSE.

5. KABUL RADIO ALSO ANNOUNCED SEPT 20 FOLLOWING STATEMENT (ENGLISH TEXT IS SUMMARY PREPARED BY LOCAL EMPLOYEE AND NOT OFFICIAL): "IN THESE DAYS PAKISTAN PROPAGANDA MACHINERY HAS BEEN MAKING FALSE PROPAGANDA AGAINST AFGHANISTAN, ACCUSING HER OF INTERFERING IN THE INTERNAL AFFAIRS OF PAKISTAN; BUT AFGHANISTAN HAS NEVER DONE THAT AND DOESN'T WANT TO INTERFERE IN THE INTERNAL AFFAIRS OF ANY COUNTRY. AFGHANISTAN WANTS TO LIVE IN PEACE. ON THE OTHER HAND, THE PLOT JUST DISCOVERED HERE SHOWS THAT PAKISTAN HAS HAD A HAND IN INTERFERING IN AFGHANISTAN'S INTERNAL AFFAIRS. HEREBY, AFGHANISTAN WARNS PAKISTAN AUTHORITIES FOR FINAL TIME TO ABSTAIN FROM ANY FURTHER ACCUSATIONS AGAINST AFGHANISTAN AND NOT TO INTERFERE IN AFGHANISTAN'S INTERNAL AFFAIRS."

6. SIGNIFICANCE OF SPECIFIC ARRESTS LIES IN FACT THAT RETIRED GENERALS RAZAK AND KHAN MOHAMMED WIDELY BELIEVED TO HAVE BEEN INVOLVED IN JULY COUP, AT LEAST TO SOME EXTENT. MORE IMPORTANT, THEY ARE BOTH KNOWN AS OLD FRIENDS AND COLLABORATORS OF DAUD. HE WAS RELIABLY REPORTED TO HAVE INTENDED TO NAME BOTH TO KEY JOBS IN NEW REGIME BUT WAS FORCED TO GIVE WAY BEFORE STRONG OPPOSITION
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FROM CENTRAL COMMITTEE. IN FACT, GEN KHAN MOHAMMED WAS OFFICIALLY ANNOUNCED AS DEFENSE MINISTER, OCCUPIED HIS OFFICE FOR TWO DAYS, AND THEN WAS ASKED BY DAUD TO STEP OUT IN WHAT MUST HAVE BEEN VERY EMBARRASSING SITUATION FOR BOTH MEN. POSSIBILITY THAT HE WAS INDEED PLOTTING SOME FORM OF REVENGE CANNOT BE DISMISSED.

7. RADIO "WARNING" TO PAKISTAN FOLLOWS OTHER PRIVATE INDICATIONS

OF TOUGHER LINE ON PUSHTUNISTAN WE HAVE HEARD THIS WEEK FROM
MFA (REFTEL).
LEWIS

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NNN

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